



CITY NEWS

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FROM: Chief Norman Williams

**** Information Advisory ****

WPD, Firefighters, Local Businesses To Help Autistic Child, Family

It's not a complete home make-over. But, it's close. Wichita Police Officers, Wichita Firefighters, The Home Depot, Star Lumber, Carpet One Commercial, Papa Johns Pizza, Mr. Goodcents and community volunteers will spend their day tomorrow helping an autistic child and his family who live in southwest Wichita.

"The project began when officers Mike Miner and Jessica Cummings tried to solve the problem of an autistic child who repeatedly left his home when his parents were sleeping," said WPD Patrol West Sergeant Diane Varnell.

"They tried everything to keep him in the house," said Varnell. "Officer's Miner and Cummings went to Home Depot and talked with them about getting sensors put on the windows and doors to alert the parents when the child was trying to leave the home. Home Depot, which adopts a family about once a year, adopted Andrew Kliever and his family who live at 211 S. Florence."

Varnell said the two officers and other volunteers will not only will install sensors to alert the family if the child should try to leave the house, they'll also be repairing windows and the home's flooring. "The tile floor is so bad in some parts of the house you can see the wood below," said Varnell.

"We have officers and firefighters who will be helping in the project," said Varnell. "But, we can use all the help we can get."

Home Depot is providing all the materials for the project while Papa Johns Pizza and Mr. Goodcents will be helping feed the volunteers. The labor will be provided by Wichita Police Officers, Firefighters and citizens from the community. Varnell says anyone who wants to pitch in should show up at 211 S. Florence at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 9th.